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LETTER DATED 22 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHAD TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from Mr. Idriss Deby, President of the Republic of Chad, expressing his concern at the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council and placed in the dossier of the Central African Republic of which the Council is seized.

[Signed] Ahmat A. HAGGAR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter from Mr. Idriss Deby, President of the Republic of Chad, addressed to the President of the Security Council

In its resolution 1271/99 of 22 October 1999, the Security Council decided to withdraw the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA).

The international community in general, and African regional and subregional organizations in particular, welcome the return of peace and harmony to the Central African Republic and especially the actions carried out through MINURCA.

These actions have made it possible for the presidential and legislative elections in the Central African Republic to take place smoothly and for democratic institutions to be established in the country.

Nevertheless, certain institutions important to ensuring peace, security and stability in the country have not been put in place, particularly the army, which has not yet been restructured.

This withdrawal seems to us premature, and would endanger the process under way, for the following reasons:

(a) Recent developments in the country lead us to believe that the worst is possible;

(b) Instability in the subregion, characterized by the continuing war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in southern Sudan, and the fragility of the political situation in the Republic of the Congo, all countries that are neighbours of the Central African Republic.

For this reason, in my threefold capacity as President of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, President of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and President of the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), I am asking you to request the Security Council to review the political and security situation in this country with a view to extending the mandate of MINURCA, either in its current form or in a new form, so as to enable lasting peace to be restored to the Central African Republic.

From this standpoint, my country, Chad, is ready to participate in the establishment of this new structure.